

Date: Sat, 15 Oct 2005 20:02:46 -0700
To: mdelapa@mdelapa.com
From: canestro <canestro@mail.lifesci.ucsb.edu>
Subject: MPA Concepts: Initial Draft

Mike,

To ensure that a comprehensive suite of marine protected areas is available for consideration at the next CCRSG meeting, I would like to request inclusion of the CDFG Initial Draft Concepts from July of 2001.

In keeping with the October 15th, 2005 deadline in the "Outline-Proposed Next Steps" memo, please include all of the sites mentioned in the IDC in staff's analysis of MPA concepts. I have attached the IDC descriptive and map files. The science based network suggested in the IDC should provide a useful filter when identifying 'gaps' and redundancies in candidate MPA networks.

Please let me know that your received this e-mail.

Thank you for providing this further opportunity to provide input into the process of implementing the MLPA.

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On line project applications: <http://RanchoMarino.ucnrs.org/>

Overview: <http://www.californiacoastline.org> Images 1927-1938

Lat N 35 32.36/Lon 121 05.70 to Lat N 35 31.36/Lon 121 04.88

South Central MPA proposals
7/2/2001

1. Marine Region: North Central/South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is from Franklin Point to 1 nautical mile offshore at latitude 37E 8.9' N . Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore. Southern boundary is from first small point of land south of Waddell Creek to 1 nautical mile offshore at latitude 37E 4.7' N. This proposed area encompasses two marine regions.

Total Area: 7.28 square nautical miles (area within south central region 4.29 square nautical miles)

Total Shoreline length: 9.20 nautical miles (length within south central region 5.49 nautical miles)

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No, although there is a terrestrial state reserve at Año Nuevo. In addition, this encompasses an existing marine managed area, the Año Nuevo Point and Island Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Rock reef and kelp, sand bottom, outlet for steelhead and coho salmon stream. Depth range 0-17 fathoms, or 0-30 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, but anchoring allowed south of Point Año Nuevo.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This is adjacent to a terrestrial reserve and encompasses an ASBS. It is an upwelling center. It is recognized as the northern range limit for commercially abundant giant kelp. It is an important area for resident adult black rockfish, which have been heavily fished in central California in the past decade. It is a popular research and public education site. It serves as a feeding area for marbled murrelets, and is a well known pinniped haul-out site. It is an important site for foul weather anchorage.

2. Marine Region: North Central/South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is from nautical one mile due west of Franklin Point at latitude 37E 8.9' N to 3 nautical miles offshore. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore. Southern boundary is from one nautical mile due west from first small point of land south of Waddell Creek at

latitude 37E 4.7' N to 3 nautical miles offshore. Inshore boundary is the offshore boundary of the proposed Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve. This proposed area encompasses two marine regions.

Total Area: 12.64 square nautical miles (area within south central region 6.96 square nautical miles)

Total Shoreline length: not applicable.

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No, although there is a terrestrial state reserve at Año Nuevo. In addition, this encompasses an existing marine managed area, the Año Nuevo Point and Island Area of Special Biological Significance .

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Rock reef and kelp, sand bottom, outlet to steelhead and coho salmon stream. Depth range 10-35 fathoms, or 18-64 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This area encompasses part of the Año Nuevo Point and Island Area of Special Biological Significance. It is an upwelling center. It is an important area for resident adult black rockfish, which have been heavily fished in central California in the past decade. It serves as a feeding area for marbled murrelets. The adjacent inshore area is a popular research and public education site, as well as an important pinniped haul-out site.

3. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve

Proposed boundaries: Western boundary is from Needle Rock (36E 57.4' N, 122E 6.3' W) along longitude 122E 6.3' W. Eastern boundary is from the eastern edge of Natural Bridges State Beach (36E 56.9' N, 122E 3.9' W) along longitude 122E 3.9' W. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

Total Area: 1.97 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 2.84 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Shale reefs and extensive kelp, sand bottom, rocky intertidal zone. Depth range 0-19 fathoms, or 0-34 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted. If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This area is located in an “upwelling shadow,” so that larvae of some fish and invertebrates may be retained within the northern Monterey Bay area. It is representative of the shale reefs and kelp forests found along the coast between Santa Cruz and Davenport, and includes heavily-visited and well-studied tidepools at Natural Bridges State Park. Since it is close to a port, recreational fishing would be allowed within the State Marine Conservation Area (see below), and a buffer zone without commercial fishing would be provided around the Reserve. The presence of a State Park and the laboratories for U.C. Santa Cruz and the National Marine Fisheries Service will facilitate enforcement of the reserve.

4. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Natural Bridges State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: Western boundary is from Table Rock (36E 58.1' N, 122E 8.1' W) due south along longitude 122E 8.1' W. Eastern boundary is from Point Santa Cruz (36E 57.1' N, 122E 1.5' W) due south along longitude 122E 1.5' W. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore. Inshore boundary is the shoreline, except for that portion which is the offshore boundary of the proposed Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve.

Total Area: 14.45 square nautical miles. Total area within the proposed Natural Bridges SMR and SMCA is 16.42 square nautical miles.

Total Shoreline length: 4.95 nautical miles. Total shoreline within the proposed Natural Bridges SMR and SMCA is 7.79 nautical miles.

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Shale reefs and extensive kelp, sand bottom, rocky intertidal zone. Depth range 0-39 fathoms, or 0-70 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel. Recreational fishing permitted.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This area is located in an “upwelling shadow,” so that larvae of some fish and invertebrates may be retained within the northern Monterey Bay area. It is representative of the shale reefs and kelp forests found along the coast between Santa Cruz and Davenport, and includes heavily-visited and well-studied tidepools at Natural Bridges State Park. Since it is close to a port, recreational fishing would be allowed within the State Marine Conservation Area, and a buffer zone without commercial fishing would be provided around the Reserve. The presence of a State Park and the laboratories for U.C. Santa Cruz and the National Marine Fisheries Service will facilitate enforcement of the reserve.

5. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Soquel Canyon State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: A square delimited by a northern boundary latitude line of 36E 52' N, eastern boundary longitude line of 121E 57' W, southern boundary latitude line of 36E 48.3' N, and western boundary of longitude line 122E 2.2' W.

Total Area: 15.76 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: not applicable

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Submarine canyon with varied habitat, including vertical rock walls, rock outcrops, and soft sediment. Depth range 38-334 fathoms, or 70-611 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This area would include nearly all of one branch of the Monterey Submarine Canyon, and includes a variety of deep-water habitats. A natural refugium from fishing has been documented in this area, but it has otherwise been subject to fishing and shows signs of depletion. The habitat has been mapped, and the fishes have been surveyed by submersible. It is located within the Monterey Bay oceanographic system.

6. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: A square delimited by a northern boundary latitude line of 36E 43.5' N, eastern boundary longitude line of 121E 55' W, southern boundary latitude line of 36E 41' N, and western boundary longitude line of 121E 58.5' W.

Total Area: 7.03 square nautical mile

Total Shoreline length: not applicable.

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Rock reef and interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 48-112 fathoms, or 88-205 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This area includes deep-water reef habitat that has been fished for decades. Surveys of this area by submersibles show that few large fish remain in the area. However, the previous fishery in the area and the surveys by submersibles show that the habitat will support populations of deepwater rockfish and other species, so it is a good site for recovery of these species. It is within the Monterey Bay oceanographic system.

7. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Hopkins State Marine Reserve

Proposed boundaries: Existing Hopkins Marine Life Refuge, extended to base of Monterey Breakwater (36E 36.55' N, 121E 53.6' W,) which is the eastern onshore corner, and out to the eastern offshore corner (36E 36.7' N, 121E 53.3' W) at a depth of 60 feet (20 m). The western onshore corner (36E 37.6' N, 121E 54.2' W) extends out to a depth of 60 feet (20 m) which is the western offshore corner (36E 37.6'N, 121E 54.4' W). The offshore boundary is at 60 feet depth (20 m).

Total Area: 0.25 square nautical miles.

Total Shoreline length: 1.59 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? Yes (Hopkins Marine Life Refuge)

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? Yes, it is extended to the east.

Habitats: Rock reef and interspersed soft bottom; kelp forests; rocky intertidal zone. Depth range 0-11 fathoms, or 0-20 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? Yes, within the proposed expanded area only. The existing Hopkins Marine Life Refuge prohibits all commercial and recreational harvest.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This area is an expansion of the Hopkins Marine Life Refuge, which has been under some degree of protection since 1931, and has been totally protected since 1984. Extensive scientific studies have been carried out within the HMLR, and long-term monitoring sites have been established in the HMLR and off Cannery Row. The area off Cannery row is a popular area for observation of marine life by kayakers and SCUBA divers. The Monterey Peninsula is a northerly outpost for some southern California fishes. Its location off Hopkins Marine Station, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and other public facilities will facilitate enforcement.

8. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Pacific Grove State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: Existing lateral boundaries of Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Refuge. Eastern onshore boundary is the proposed western boundary of Hopkins SMR out to 1 nautical mile (36E 38.29' N, 121E 54' W). The inshore boundary follows the curve of the land from the eastern onshore boundary around Pt. Piños to Asilomar. Southern onshore boundary (36E 37.08' N, 121E 56.46' W) out to 1 nautical mile (36E 37.47' N, 121E 58' W). Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

Total Area: 3.88 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 4.12 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? Yes (Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge).

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? Yes, the proposed boundary is expanded offshore.

Habitats: Extensive rock reef and interspersed soft bottom; kelp forests; extensive rocky intertidal zone. Depth range 0-37 fathoms, or 0-68 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial fishing except for sardines, mackerel, anchovy, squid, and herring, and kelp. Recreational fishing allowed for finfish only.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? Yes. Currently recreational fishing for other invertebrates besides mollusks and crustaceans, and marine aquatic plants, is permitted.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This has been an MPA since 1984, and existing rules have been extended to the enlarged MPA. It serves as a buffer zone for the proposed Hopkins State Marine Reserve, but allows recreational fishing for finfish in an area that is protected from the weather and is accessible from shore. It is a popular area for the observation of marine life, and the site of many scientific studies. The Monterey Peninsula is a northerly outpost for some southern California fishes. Extension of the MPA to 1 mile from shore provides a degree of protection to extensive deeper reefs, as well as the extensive shallow reefs and kelp forests.

9. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Carmel Bay State Marine Park

Proposed boundaries: Same as existing boundaries. Western boundary begins at Pescadero Point (36E 33.654' N, 121E 57.12' W) and continues in a straight line to Granite Point (36E 31.41' N, 121E 56.1' W) at compass bearing roughly southeast. All other boundaries of this reserve are bound by the coastline.

Total Area: 1.87 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 5.79 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? Yes (Carmel Bay Ecological Reserve)

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? No

Habitats: Rock reef and interspersed soft bottom; kelp forests; submarine canyon. Depth range 0-77 fathoms, or 0-141 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial fishing permitted. Recreational fishing allowed for all species except mollusks and crustaceans.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? No

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This area has been an MPA since 1976, and current levels of protection have been extended. This area covers a wide range of habitats, including rock reefs, sand bottom, and the head of the Carmel submarine canyon. It is a popular area for the observation of marine life, and the site of long-term monitoring sites and many scientific studies. The canyon head serves as a reserve for spot prawns, a species harvested commercially. The Monterey Peninsula is a northerly outpost for some southern California fishes, and Carmel Bay is oceanographically complex due to its proximity to both Monterey Bay and the Pt. Sur upwelling center.

10. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Point Lobos State Marine Reserve

Proposed boundaries: Present boundaries of Point Lobos Ecological Reserve. Northeastern onshore boundary (36E 31.4' N, 121E 56.2' W) out to northeastern offshore boundary (36E 31.5' N, 121E 56.2' N). Northern boundary at a latitude line 36E 31.5' N to a western offshore boundary (36 31.5' N, 121E 57.5' W). Southwest onshore boundary (36E 30.3' N, 121E 56.3' W) to a Southwest offshore boundary (36E 30.9' N, 121E 57.9' W).

Total Area: 0.83 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 6.71 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? Yes (Point Lobos Ecological Reserve)

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? No

Habitats: Extensive rock reef deep and shallow off Pt. Lobos and Yankee Point; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom; submarine canyon heads. Depth range 0-32 fathoms, or 0-59 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? No.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: The Point Lobos Ecological Reserve has been in existence since 1974, and is a popular area for observation of marine life. It is adjacent to a state terrestrial reserve, so entry is monitored closely. It is the site of several surveys of fish and biota in both shallow and deep water, and a long-term monitoring site. The Pt. Lobos Ecological Reserve contains extensive reef and kelp-forest habitat, seabird roosts, and pinniped haul-outs. The proposed surrounding SMCA contains more of this habitat, as well as deeper reefs and canyon heads. This area is representative of the habitats found between Pt. Lobos and Pt. Sur. It is near the upwelling center at Pt. Sur, and to the circulation of Carmel Bay.

11. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: Northern inshore boundary latitude 36E 31.7'N from offshore northern corner of Point Lobos SMR extended west to 3 nautical miles. Southern boundary is at a unnamed point (36E 28.8' N, 121E 56.2' W) due west of the mouth of Malpasos Creek , and east of the mouth of Malpasos Creek at a latitude 36E 28.8' N. Inshore boundary is the shoreline, except for that portion which is the offshore and southern boundary of the proposed Point Lobos State Marine Reserve. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

Total Area: 8.57 square nautical miles. Total area within the proposed Pt. Lobos SMR and SCMA is 9.40 square nautical miles.

Total Shoreline length: 4.12 nautical miles. Total shoreline length within the proposed Pt. Lobos SMR and SCMA is 10.83 nautical miles.

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Extensive rock reef deep and shallow off Pt. Lobos and Yankee Point; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom; submarine canyon heads. Depth range 0-290 fathoms, or 0-530 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, mackerel, and, by trap only, spot prawns.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: The proposed area would serve as a buffer zone for Pt. Lobos State Marine Reserve and would provide extensive protection for bottom-associated fishes, particularly rockfishes. The proposed area contains extensive reef and kelp-forest habitat, seabird roosts, and pinniped haul-outs, as well as deeper reefs and canyon heads. This area is representative of the habitats found between Pt. Lobos and Pt. Sur. It is near the upwelling center at Pt. Sur, and to the circulation of Carmel Bay.

12. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is a latitude line 36E 18.4' N from Point Sur (36E 18.4' N, 121E 54.1' N) to 3 nautical miles offshore. Southern boundary is a latitude line 36E 16.5' N from unnamed point onshore (36E 16.5' N, 121E 50.9' W) to 3 nautical miles. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

Total Area: 7.81 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 3.98 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Extensive rock reef deep and shallow; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 0-42 fathoms, or 0-77 meters

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: Point Sur is an upwelling center, where larvae of fish and invertebrates may be transported to other areas. This area contains extensive reefs, in both deep and shallow water. This site and nearby areas of similar habitat are exploited by commercial and recreational fisheries. It is adjacent to Andrew Molera State Park, and near a long-term monitoring site.

13. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Marine Reserve

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is a latitude line 36E 10.5' N from Partington Point (36E 10.5' N, 121E 41.9' W) to 1 nautical mile. Southern boundary is a latitude line 36E 9.2' N from Anderson Canyon (36E 9.2' N, 121E 40' W) to 1 nautical mile. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

Total Area: 2.06 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 3.29 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? Yes (Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park)

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? Yes

Habitats: Rocky intertidal; rock reefs and interspersed sand in shallow water; submarine canyon heads, kelp forests. Depth range 0-137 fathoms, or 0-251 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? Yes, existing regulations prohibit the commercial and recreational take of certain invertebrates and the recreational take of kelp only.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: Most of this area has been designated as an underwater park, for its underwater topography and excellent diversity of marine life. It is adjacent to a terrestrial state park. Surveys of the marine life in this area have been conducted by the State Parks department in designating it an underwater park. This and the Big Creek reserve will serve as replicated no-take areas within a region of similar habitat and oceanography. It is located between upwelling centers.

14. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Big Creek State Marine Reserve

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is a latitude line of 36E 5.3' N from onshore point (36E 5.3' N, 121E 37.1' W) out to northern offshore corner (36E 5.3' N, 121E 37.9' W). Southern boundary is a latitude line of 36E 3.6' N from onshore point (36E 3.6' N, 121E 35.5' W) out to southern offshore corner (36E 3.6' N, 121E 36.4' W). Offshore boundary is 50 fathoms depth.

Total Area: 1.89 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 2.69 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? Yes (Big Creek Marine Resources Protection Act Ecological Reserve)

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? No

Habitats: Extensive rock reef deep and shallow; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom; submarine canyon heads. Depth range 0-50 fathoms, or 0-92 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? No.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This would serve as a buffer zone for The Big Creek Marine Resources Protection Act Ecological Reserve has existed since 1994, and is the site of monitoring studies in both deep and shallow water. The proposed State Marine Conservation area extends the north and south boundaries to more easily-recognized points, and extends protection of benthic species to deeper water. This MPA is south of the Pt. Sur upwelling center, and just north of a small upwelling center at Lopez point. A large and diverse intertidal system occurs at Gamboa Point. This MPA leaves Lopez Point and other reef areas near the coastal access at Mill Creek open for fishing.

15. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Big Creek State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is from Rat Creek (36E 5.5' N, 121E 37.1' W) at latitude line 36E 5.5' N to 3 nautical miles offshore. Southern boundary is from Gamboa Point (36E 3.0' N, 121E 35.4' W) at latitude line 36E 3.0' N to 3 nautical miles offshore. Inshore boundary is the shoreline, except for that portion which is the offshore, northern and southern boundary of the proposed Big Creek State Marine Reserve.

Total Area: 6.97 square nautical miles. Total area within the proposed Big Creek SMR and Big Creek SMCA is 8.86 square nautical miles.

Total Shoreline length: 1.06 nautical miles. Total shoreline length within the proposed Big Creek SMR and Big Creek SMCA is 3.75 nautical miles.

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Extensive rock reef deep and shallow; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom; submarine canyon heads. Depth range 0-399 fathoms, or 0-729 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, mackerel, and herring.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: The proposed State Marine Conservation area extends the north and south boundaries of the existing Big Creek MRPA Ecological Reserve to more easily-recognized points, and extends protection of benthic species to deeper water. This proposed MPA is south of the Pt. Sur upwelling center, and just north of a small upwelling center at Lopez point. A large and diverse intertidal system occurs at Gamboa point. This proposed MPA leaves Lopez Point and other reef areas near the coastal access at Mill Creek open for fishing.

16. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Salmon Creek State Marine Reserve

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is a latitude line of 35E 49.9' N from White Rock #1 to 1 nautical mile offshore. Southern boundary is a latitude line of 35E 48' N from White Rock #2 to 1 nautical mile offshore. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

Total Area: 2.81 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 3.18 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No, but it does encompass an existing Area of Special Biological Significance, which provides water quality protection.

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Rock reef and kelp forest, interspersed with sand bottom. Depth range 0-24 fathoms, or 0-44 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This small proposed state marine reserve overlaps with an existing Area of Special Biological Significance, and includes shallow-water reef and kelp habitat. It is south of a small upwelling center at Cape San Martin, and provides an MPA in the region between the Big Creek and Piedras Blancas MPAs.

17. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is latitude line 35E 41.2' N from Hearst Castle Rock (35E 41.2' N, 121E 17.3' W) out to 3 nautical miles. Southern boundary is latitude line 35E 39.1' N from a unnamed point (35E 9.1' N, 121E 14' W) south of Point Piedras Blancas out to 3 nautical miles. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

Total Area: 8.40 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 5.24 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Extensive and popular intertidal zone; rock reef and kelp forests, with interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 0-54 fathoms, or 0-99 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This area encompasses part of the Año Pt. Piedras Blancas and the coast to the south include a rocky intertidal region that has been the subject of study for over 50 years, including ongoing monitoring studies. Elephant seals have established a new haul-out site in this

area. Extensive areas of reef and kelp occur offshore, and some subtidal surveys have been conducted there. The proposed Piedras Blancas SMCA complements the proposed Cambria SMCA and SMR in a region where nearshore fisheries have been heavily utilized.

18. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Cambria State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is a latitude line 35E 35.8' N from Pico Rock (35E 35.8' N, 121E 7.7' W) out to 3 nautical miles. Southern boundary is a latitude line 35E 32.4' N from Von Helm Rock (35E 2.4' N, 121E 5.4' W) out to 3 nautical miles offshore. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles.

Total Area: 13.12 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 4.53 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Rock reef and kelp forests, with interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 0-47 fathoms, or 0-86 meters.

Proposed regulations: Recreational fishing is permitted. No commercial fishing is permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This area encompasses part of the Año The region between Pt. Estero and Pt. Piedras Blancas contains extensive reef and kelp habitat, and has been heavily utilized by commercial and recreational fisheries. The proposed Cambria SMCA includes a launch site that has been traditionally used by recreational fishermen, and more recently by commercial fishermen. By allowing recreational but not commercial fishing within the proposed SMCA, recreational and commercial fishing can be partitioned spatially, and the effects of recreational and recreational plus commercial fishing can be evaluated. The proposed Cambria SMR (see below) provides an additional area, subject to no fishing, for comparison.

19. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Cambria State Marine Reserve

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is the southern boundary of the proposed Cambria State Marine Conservation Area latitude line 35E 32.4' N from Von Helm Rock (35E 32.4' N, 121E 5.4' W) out to 3 nautical miles offshore. Southern boundary is latitude 35E 31' N from unnamed point (35E 31' N, 121E 04' W) out to 3 nautical miles. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

Total Area: 5.18 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 3.63 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Rock reef and kelp forests, with interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 0-54 fathoms, or 0-99 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This area encompasses part of the Año The region between Pt. Estero and Pt. Piedras Blancas contains extensive reef and kelp habitat, and has been heavily utilized by commercial and recreational fisheries. The proposed Cambria SMCA (see above) includes a launch site that has been traditionally used by recreational fishermen, and more recently by commercial fishermen. By allowing recreational but not commercial fishing within the proposed SMCA, recreational and commercial fishing can be partitioned spatially, and the effects of recreational and recreational plus commercial fishing can be evaluated. The proposed Cambria SMR provides an additional area, subject to no fishing, for comparison. The proposed Cambria SMR is located adjacent to a University of California natural reserve, and a long-term marine monitoring site has been established here.

20. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is at latitude 35E 14.5' N from R'2" F1R6 Whistle, onshore point (35E 14.5' N, 120E 53.4' W) out to 1 nautical mile. Southern boundary is at latitude 35E 12.6' N from unnamed rock (35E 12.6' N, 120E 51.3' W) at Diablo Cove out to 1 nautical mile. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

Total Area: 2.53 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 3.97 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Rock reef and kelp forests, with interspersed soft bottom; offshore pinnacles. Depth range 0-27 fathoms, or 0-49 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: This area of extensive rock reefs represents the region of rock habitat between Pt. Buchon and Pt. San Luis. This region has been heavily utilized by recreational and commercial fisheries. Considerable biological and oceanographic information about the region has been gathered in this region for over 25 years as monitoring for the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. The location of the southern boundary of the proposed SMCA off Diablo Canyon was designed to take advantage of the northern monitoring sites for Diablo Canyon.

21. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Purisima State Marine Conservation Area

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is latitude 34E 45.3' N from Purisima Point (34E 45.3' N, 120E 38.2' W) out to 1 nautical mile. Southern boundary is latitude 34E 41.6' N from an unnamed onshore point (34E 41.6' N, 120E 36.1' W) which is the north of Ocean Beach Park at the Santa Ynez River. Offshore boundary 1 nautical from shore.

Total Area: 4.52 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 5.18 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Rocky intertidal and rock reefs characteristic of the region; kelp forests, soft bottom. Depth range 0-17 fathoms, or 0-31 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for finfishing by hook-and-line from shore.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: The area surrounding Point Conception is of great biological value because it is the transition between the biotas of central and southern California. In addition, the area near Purisima Point is one of the few areas of reef and kelp between Point San Luis and Point Conception, and the reef areas there support a somewhat distinct assemblage of species. Brown rockfish is targeted in fisheries here, as well as rock crab offshore of the proposed MPA. Finfishing from shore would be allowed to accommodate personnel stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

22. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Point Conception State Marine Park

Proposed boundaries: Northern boundary is latitude 34E 36.3' N from Point Pedernales (34E 36.3' N, 120E 38.3' W) out to 3 nautical miles offshore. Eastern boundary is longitude 120E 27' W from Government Point (34E 26.8' N, 120E 27' W). This proposed State Marine Park is in both the South Central and Southern California Region.

Total Area: 55.45 square nautical miles (in south central region area is 54.98 square nautical miles).

Total Shoreline length: 19.95 nautical miles (in south central region shoreline length is 18.14 nautical miles).

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? Yes (Vandenberg Marine Resources Protection Act Ecological Reserve)

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? Yes

Habitats: Rock reef, sandy bottom, and kelp beds. Cultural artifacts (shipwrecks). Depth range 0-77 fathoms, or 0-140 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial fishing permitted. No recreational fishing permitted except for finfish by hook and line from shore.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? Yes, this would allow finfishing from shore within the existing Vandenberg MRPA Ecological Reserve, which is now prohibited. It would prohibit fishing in the proposed expanded area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: The area surrounding Point Conception is of great biological significance. It is one of the world's most striking biogeographic boundaries marking the abrupt transition from cold water species from the north (Oregonian province) to warm water species from the south (California province). The region of overlap in this proposed state marine park includes a unique mix of species that is not found anywhere else along the Pacific coast. The sharp transition in species arises from the collision of ocean currents. The cold, nutrient rich waters of the southward flowing California Current collide with the warmer, nutrient poor waters of the Santa Barbara Channel in the vicinity of Point Conception. The region between Point Arguello and Point Conception is characterized by extensive upwelling during the spring and summer because of the strong, persistent north winds. Extensive research has been done on the biology and oceanography of coastal ecosystems around Pt. Conception, including many long-term studies. These databases will enable detailed evaluations of reserve effectiveness. The sensitivity of this region to human disturbance is greatly accentuated, because the settlement of young fish and invertebrates to the region is chronically low, probably due to the strong surface currents moving offshore due to the intense upwelling. As a result, populations in this region may be especially sensitive to human disturbance. The direction of ocean circulation in this region also suggests that young produced on the mainland coast in the Point Conception area may commonly be exported to the northern Channel Islands. The sensitivity of adult populations because of low larval settlement coupled with the likely importance of these populations as a source of young to island populations make this a critical area to reduce impacts. In addition to the special ecosystem features of this region, there are substantial culturally important features of the proposed state marine park, including several historically important shipwrecks. Limited shoreline access makes this a low-use area,

so the effects on consumptive users should be minimal. Shore-based recreational finfishing around Jalama Beach and Boathouse are relatively common and will be permitted to continue in this marine park.

23. Marine Region: South Central

Proposed name of MPA: Area Charlie State Marine Reserve (San Nicolas Island)

Proposed boundaries: Navy "Area C" out to 3 miles. Western boundary from range markers at Dutch Harbor (33E 13.1' N, 119E 29.7' W) at longitude 119E 29.7' W out to 3 nautical miles. Northern boundary at East End Light (33E 13.8' N, 119E 25.3'W) at latitude 33E 13.8'N to 3 nautical miles. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

Total Area: 19.36 square nautical miles

Total Shoreline length: 4.56 nautical miles

Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No

If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? N/A

Habitats: Rocky reefs, kelp forests, and sand bottom. Depth range 0-389 fathoms, or 0-711 meters.

Proposed regulations: No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations? This is a new proposed marine protected area.

Criteria and rationale for recommendation: The biota of San Nicolas Island is transitional between southern California and central California, because of its exposure to the California Current. This reserve provides protection for habitat that is representative of San Nicolas Island. Subtidal biological surveys have been carried out in the area of this reserve and at other sites on San Nicolas Island.

San Miguel and Santa Rosa Islands

Please note that San Miguel and Santa Rosa Islands are purposely omitted from this initial draft concept in deference to a recommendation being developed jointly by DFG and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary for MPAs for these and three other Channel Islands. This recommendation will be presented to the Fish and Game Commission at its late August meeting.

Proposed Elimination of Existing MPAs

Four existing sites are proposed for elimination within the south central region:

Atascadero Beach Pismo Clam Preserve
Morro Beach Pismo Clam Preserve
Pismo Invertebrate Reserve
Pismo-Oceano Beach Pismo Clam Preserve

These four areas were originally designated primarily to protect Pismo clams. With the expansion of the range of sea otters, Pismo clams are no longer abundant, and these MPAs are not effective in meeting their original objective.

State Water Quality Protection Areas

The South Central Region contains seven sites now known as "Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)". Under the new classification system, each of these would be re-named as a State Water Quality Protection Area with no change in regulations. At this time the planning Team is recommending no change in regulations for these sites, which are as follows:

Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge and Hopkins Marine Life Refuge ASBS
Carmel Bay ASBS
Point Lobos Ecological Reserve ASBS
Julia Pfeiffer Burns Underwater Park ASBS
Ocean Area Surrounding the Mouth of Salmon Creek ASBS
San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz Islands ASBS (part of this is in South Region)
San Nicolas Island and Begg Rock ASBS
Note that these sites overlap existing or proposed marine protected areas.

Existing Estuarine Marine Protected Areas

The following existing estuarine areas are within the south central region:

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve
Morro Bay State Estuary
Under the new classification system, Elkhorn Slough would be re-named as a State Marine Conservation Area, with no change in regulations. Note that, by definition within the new classification system, "Marine" includes estuarine areas. Morro Bay State Estuary currently has no site specific regulations for fishing which are more restrictive than the existing Fish and Game regulations. At this time the MLPA Planning Team is recommending no change in either boundaries or regulations for these sites.



